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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/482,956	01/14/2000	Mrudula Kanuri	95-309	7724

20736 7590 03/12/2004

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WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3307

EXAMINER

JAGANNATHAN, MELANIE

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2666

DATE MAILED: 03/12/2004

9

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

TM

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/482,956

Applicant(s)

KANURI, MRUDULA

Examiner

Melanie Jagannathan

Art Unit

2666

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vig US 6,262,988 in view of Breitbart et al. US 6,697,338.

Regarding claims 1,2,5,10,11,17-18,20, the claimed integrated network switch having a switching module is disclosed by switch (Figure 3, element 30) and subnets (elements 32 and 34) with hosts 36 and 38 attached respectively. The claimed obtaining from layer 2 packet, layer 3 information having network identifier, a subnetwork identifier and a host identifier, the subnetwork identifier identifying a corresponding one of the subnetworks and the host identifier identifying a transmitting node having transmitted the layer 3 packet information and the claimed storing address information from layer 2 packet, including host identifier in table is disclosed by switch CPU looking beyond layer 2 header of packet to decode layer 3 header in packet and getting both source and destination address, and source and destination subnet information and using subnet to ports table and MAC address to port table (Figure 9). See column 6, lines 13-18, column 8, lines 9-33 and lines 49-67.

Vig et al. discloses all of the limitations of the claims except for plurality of address tables within switching module based on corresponding subnetwork identifier, each of the address tables configured for storing the host identifiers of respective transmitting nodes of a

Art Unit: 2666

corresponding one of the subnetworks. Breitbart et al. US 6,697,338 disclose a switch belonging to multiple VLANs and maintaining address forwarding tables for each VLAN. See column 12, lines 9-14. At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify a switch with a plurality of tables for each subnet as in Breitbart et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to do this for efficient address mapping.

Regarding claims 3-4, 12-13,21-22, the claimed network switch with a plurality of network switch ports each connected to a corresponding one of subnetworks is disclosed by switch (Figure 4, element 40) with port 1 connected to a corresponding one subnet (element 42) and port 2 connected to a corresponding one subnet (element 44). Vig discloses all of the limitations of the claims except for the selecting the one address table based on the network switch port having received the layer 2 packet. Vig discloses the use of subnet to ports table and MAC address to port table (Figure 9) based on address information from packet. Breitbart et al. US 6,697,338 disclose a switch belonging to multiple VLANs and maintaining address forwarding tables for each VLAN. See column 12, lines 9-14. At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify a switch with a plurality of tables for each subnet as in Breitbart et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to do this for efficient address mapping.

Regarding claims 6, 9,10,16, the claimed searching table for stored table entry having layer 3 switching information based solely on host identifier and storing the address information from layer 2 packet into table based on determined absence of the stored table entry is disclosed by subnet to ports table (Figure 9) and test to see if source subnet is defined in subnet to port

Art Unit: 2666

mapping table by switch CPU and switch adding it to list of ports if it absent from table. See column 8, lines 49-59. Vig discloses all of the limitations of the claims except for the selecting the one address table based on the network switch port having received the layer 2 packet. Vig discloses the use of subnet to ports table and MAC address to port table (Figure 9) based on address information from packet. Breitbart et al. US 6,697,338 disclose a switch belonging to multiple VLANs and maintaining address forwarding tables for each VLAN. See column 12, lines 9-14. At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify a switch with a plurality of tables for each subnet as in Breitbart et al. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to do this for efficient address mapping.

3. Claims 7-8,14-15,19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vig and Breitbart et al. in view of Ullum et al. US 6,266,705.

Vig and Breitbart et al. disclose all of the limitations of the claims except for host identifier as key (claim 7), generating a hash key based on host identifier and searching for stored table entry using generated hash key (claim 8). Ullum et al. disclose a hash circuit (Figure 2, element 216) to map the VLAN data into a key. See column 5, lines 59-67 and column 6, lines 1-9. At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to generate a hash key to search a table. One of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to do this for efficient searching in table.

#### ***Response to Arguments***

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Examiner agrees reference Kadambi et al. US 6,529,503

Art Unit: 2666

does not disclose claimed subject matter of plurality of tables in switching module where each address table is configured for storing host identifiers for a corresponding subnetwork. Examiner submits reference Breitbart et al. as new grounds of rejection.

### *Conclusion*

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Hendel et al. US 6,081,522 disclose system and method for a multi-layer network element.

Hendel et al. US 5,920,566 disclose routing in a multi-layer distributed network element.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melanie Jagannathan whose telephone number is 703-305-8078. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Seema Rao can be reached on 703-308-5463. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/482,956  
Art Unit: 2666

Page 6

Melanie Jagannathan  
Patent Examiner  
AU 2666

MJ *[initials]*

*me [unclear]  
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